(a) whether Government are proposing to use LPG as fuel in automobiles;

(b) if so, what is mechanism and time frame;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that "Alcohol' is mixed with petrol and used as fuel for cars e.g. Gashol in Brazil; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) is considered to be an environment friendly fuel. The use thereof as automotive fuel can commence after the necessary amendment in the Motor Vehicles Act and other relevant fules are made.

(c) and (d) It is reported that Brazil has been using ethanol blended with gasoline at different proportions in automobiles for quite some time.

Performance of Public Sector Oil Companies

2416. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of performance of oil companies in the public sector during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of companies have not fared well in the recent past; and

(c) if so, the details thereof together with reasons separately for each company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) The performance of oil companies in the public sector during the last three years has been as under:—

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Crude Oil Production (MMT)	31.55	31.34	29.68
Gas Production (MMSCM)	22745	24720	24554
Crude Throughput of refineries (MMT)	60.0	61.3	64.5
Profit After Tax (Rs/crore)	5694	7497	8710

(b) and (c) Crude Oil production in ONGC and refinery through put in HPCL and BRPL has been lower than the target owing to the following reasons.

ONGC:

(i) The major oil fields including Mumbai High are entering the natural declining phase with age.

(ii) Not significant or major oil field has been found in several years.

(iii) Continued environmental problems in Eastern region and its cascading effect has resulted in less base protential due to subdued drilling and work over activities.

(iv) Less gain from Enhanced Oil Recovery schemes in North Gujarat.

(v) Erratic Power supply from State Electricity Boards in Gujarat and Assam.

HPCL:

Crude throughput of Visakh Refinery suffered due to fire in the refinery in September, 1997 resulting in its closure and the subsequent delay in start-up of the refinery units.

BRPL:

Less availability of Crude Oil due to lower production in the NE-region.

Non-Vacation of Flats taken on Lease by PSUs

2417. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are many cases of illegal occupation of flats by IOC in Mumbai which were taken on lease even after expiry of the lease;

(b) if so, how many such cases of non-vacation are there in Mumbai;

(c) whether it is a fact that there are cases when the IOC is still in provision of such flats in Mumbai well after 5 to 10 years of lease expiry; and

(d) what steps are being taken to handover such flats to the rightful owners in due course?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) There are 27 such flats in Bombay which are in possession of IOC after expiry of the original lease period as statutory tenants. Government has laid down guidelines for deleasing of flats by the oil companies.